

CTs-HK-AD37727

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July 8, 1971

SIT TO *[initials]*

State Dept review
completed

FOR: KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

FROM: HAIG

*Called to Col. Kennedy
1300 7/8/72
for Transmission
unnumbered*

Have just completed two hour discussion between leader, his Chief of Staff, guest and me. Rather tortuously threaded our way through to current state of play, with suggestion that decision as to general venue was recently arrived at as a result of information just given to you and provided to Washington via Pak channels to me.

Leader stated he had authorized you to proceed to secret location without giving precise spot. My judgment is that guest was not particularly surprised. Meeting was cordial and became more so as ramifications of enterprise were discussed. Discussed nature and timing of possible announcement following your return and I believe all are postured along the lines you had hoped for, both with respect to timing and substance of possible announcement,

New development here which could effect your meeting is press play given to backgrounder in Japan by Secretary Laird's press secretary, Friedheim, following up reported statements made by Laird in Japan. General gist of stories receiving immense play in Tokyo are to effect that Laird suggested we would not be opposed

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to independent Japanese nuclear capability. Further stories suggest that Laird or his spokesman indicated that SALT talks would result in shifts in strategic balance which might provide incentive for Japanese nuclearization. Department of State has strongly denied this line, emphasizing that we have encouraged Japan to sign NPT and that inference drawn in Japan is incorrect. Also emphasized that SALT negotiations are being conducted so as not to disrupt strategic balance in any way.

You may find your host concerned about Japanese press play and perhaps suspicious that Laird planted stories to posture hosts for your meeting. Obviously, it will be necessary for you to be prepared for this latest turn of events. Leader also authorized his guest to assure Japanese Ambassador in D. C. that there is no truth in speculation emanating from Laird comments.

Best regards.

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